



Changes and modifications: counseling support supplies the new directions

Over the past 5 years, DANTES Counselor Support has worked to improve and modify our contracts that provide guidance information, interest inventories, and assessment tools. These tools benefit both clients and counselors and have long been an integral part of the counseling process.

The more information gained before the formation of a counseling plan, the easier it can be to stay focused. DANTES began, almost 20 years ago, providing paper-delivered services. As the Services' needs changed and communications equipment improved, so did the opportunity to upgrade the delivery of services to the Service members and spouses stationed and deployed worldwide.

DANTES next moved to include the option of CD-ROM deliveries. The CD-ROM option was well received by five of our providers and, over the next few years, they brought on their CD-ROM delivered instruments. One provider began to offer the option of fax-back materials without any prompting by DANTES. These changes have improved service for all involved, but the changes within the last 3 years have shown a significant increase in Internet-delivered services.

DANTES has four providers offering Internet services. This leaves only two of our providers not offering an automated product. One of those two is working to deliver the Internet option to DANTES in a year or two.

DANTES has Internet delivery by the following providers:

- **Consulting Psychologists Press** offers the *Strong Skills and Confidence Inventory (SCI)* and *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)*.
- **NCS-Pearson** offers the *Campbell Interest and Skills Survey (CISS)*.
- **National Career Assessments Services Inc.** offers the *Kuder Career Search with Person Match*.
- **ACT Inc.** is the newest to offer the *DISCOVER* Guidance program

For information on any of these tools, E-mail counseling@voled.doded.mil.

Reserve Component Panel meets in San Antonio

by MAJ Hal Abbenhaus, DANTES Reserve Component Advisor

The Reserve Component Education Panel (RCEP) met on 5 February in San Antonio, Texas. Panel members congregated at the historic Menger Hotel, adjacent to the Alamo, as attendees of the 2003 meeting of the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME). This year's CCME had an increased focus on the



MAJ Hal Abbenhaus

Reserve components. For more information on the CCME and specific conference presentations, please access <http://www.ccmeonline.org/>.

Colonel Henry Payne, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (Manpower and Personnel), once again hosted the RCEP. Others in attendance were: Major Hal Abbenhaus (DANTES), Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Achterberg (Air National Guard), Master Sergeant Rebecca Delgado

(Air Force Reserve), Mr. Paul Dowd (Navy Reserve), Master Sergeant Ken Hardy (Army National Guard), and Ms. Jeanne Rivers (Marine Corps Reserve).

COL Payne opened the meeting by discussing the increased emphasis on "Social Compact" awareness. The government is emphasizing accountability of resources and this also applies to the voluntary education

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Distance Learning

DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs update

Aviation and Electronic Schools of America

New address:

7905 Silverton Avenue, Suite 101
San Diego, CA 92126

California National University for Advanced Studies

New address:

8550 Balboa Boulevard, Suite 210
Northridge, CA 91325

American Military University has new name

Their new name is:

American Public University System (APUS). The American Public University System consists of:

- American Public University
- American Military University
- American Community College

APUS also has new corporate and academic headquarters at:

322-C West Washington Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: 877-468-6268
Fax: 304-724-6863

Institute of Logistical Management

The Institute of Logistical Management (ILM) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Phoenix approving all Transportation and Logistics courses

offered through ILM towards Degree Programs at the University of Phoenix. ILM has been in existence for more than 80 years and focuses entirely on Transportation and Logistics courses through distance learning worldwide. ILM has 12 courses, all accredited by DETC and carrying ACE-recommended college credits. ILM also offers students a **Certified Logistics Practitioner's** certificate (CLP).

Courses are "Real World" focused for on-the-job application.

New course:

Course Number: TL 1201

Title: Introduction to Transportation and Logistics

Contact Hours: 95

ACE/CCRS Credit: 2

Length of Course: 6 months

Tuition: \$430

Other fees: \$95

Total Cost: \$525

American College of Computer and Information Sciences

Price increase:

\$130 credit hour for all Bachelor of Science programs

\$180 credit hour for all Master of Science programs

Single course - \$595 per course for all Bachelor of Science courses

Single course - \$795 per course for all Master of Science courses

New program approved by DETC:

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Individual courses will be listed on DANTES web site.

Send us less paperwork!

DFAS just informed us that Service members are no longer required to send DANTES documentation that establishes Direct Deposit or Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) payments for TA reimbursements.

DFAS now uses, automatically, the same bank account information to pay TA reimbursements that they use to pay Service member salary and benefits. The banking information used for salary and TA reimbursements, as well as other payments to the individual, is part of the DFAS MyPay initiative.

Service members can review this information by accessing their MyPay accounts at <http://www.dfas.mil/mypay/>. In fact, DFAS strongly suggests Service members ensure their EFT information is correct by accessing MyPay.

Read the
**DANTES
Information
Bulletin
online
at**
http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/bulletin/index.htm

Calendar

April

4	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
14-18	CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*
14-19	GRE Subject*
26-30	Praxis*

May

6-8	ASE (Overseas)**
6, 8, 13	ASE (Conus)**

Note: Deadline for ordering ASE exams was 21 March

June

2-6	CLEP General English Composition w/Essay*
6	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
9	LSAT
28-2 July	Praxis*

Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/02-03cal.doc

DANTES-funded testing limited for acquisition workforce personnel

While most DANTES Test Centers do not test Acquisition Workforce personnel, those that do must pay attention to the list of approved DANTES-funded DSST and CLEP test titles. These eight test titles appear on the "Defense Acquisition University Testing Program – Eligibility Statement" which is an exhibit in both the DSST and CLEP *DEPH* chapters. Lately, monthly volume reports from Chauncey Group International/ETS have included tests that are not on this form and therefore not approved for DANTES funding.

To be eligible for a DANTES-funded DSST or CLEP, the government acquisition career employee must submit an approved eligibility statement form signed by the examinee's supervisor or personnel officer to the DANTES TCO. If the employee wants to test on any other than the eight approved tests, they

must pay the test fee at the time of testing. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Exams Program at DSN 922-1063, (850) 452-1063, or E-mail exams@voled.doded.mil.

DSSTs

Principles of Statistics
Principles of Finance
Principles of Financial Accounting
Human Resource Management
Organizational Behavior
Business Law II

CLEP exams

Principles of Macroeconomics
Principles of Microeconomics

Principles of Marketing is **no longer available as a paper-based CLEP exam.**

SAT/ACT administration not for civilians at overseas DANTES Test Centers

Overseas DANTES Test Centers can not administer the SAT I or ACT to civilians to include Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) students. Exceptions to this policy require written justification submitted to the TCO prior to testing. Justification for:

- Authorized civilians should indicate the reason why the examinee could not test through a DoDDS or an International Test Center.

- DoDDS students, submitted by the local DoDDS principal, should indicate why the student could not test through a DoDDS test center.

The TCO must review the request and, if adequate justification is provided, submit it with the registration form, answer sheet, test fee, and overseas surcharge to the testing agency. The DoDDS voucher for SAT I and ACT surcharges is not authorized for use at DANTES Test Centers.

Certification/Counseling

DANTES welcomes new certification association

The North American Trade Excellence (NATE) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DANTES to offer their examinations throughout DANTES Test Centers. NATE is the leading certification program for technicians in the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC/R) industry and is the only test supported by the entire industry.

Recently, representatives from

NATE and DANTES briefed members of a Navy Seabee unit participating in a Navy study examining ways to make certification a component the Sailor's career path.

For additional information on NATE, visit the DANTES web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Click on 'Certification Programs' and look under the *National Calendar* and the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook, Part III*.

FAA beta testing successful at DANTES Test Centers

The FAA and DANTES testing program of the General, Airframe and Powerplant examinations via computer is doing well in the beta testing process. The FAA informed us of their success with beta connections at these DANTES Test Centers:

- Maxwell Air Force Base:
Montgomery, Alabama
- Tinker Air Force Base:
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Davis-Monthan Air Force Base:
Tucson, Arizona
- Naval Air Station:
Fallon, Nevada
- Navy College Office (Oceana):
Virginia Beach, Virginia

The FAA is working to establish a connectivity and beta test with the USCG Air Station in Elizabeth City,

North Carolina.

The FAA and DANTES have scheduled an overview of these testing procedures at the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium in July. Plans call for representatives from the FAA along with the DANTES Certification Program Manager to present at two sessions. We hope to see you there.

Quarterly reports for DISCOVER due

For Education Centers and Family Support Centers that have the DISCOVER program, quarterly reports from January through March are due by 15 April. Negative reports are required.

You can fax the report to DSN 922-1162 or (850) 452-1162, or mail it to DANTES, Code 10B, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509-5243.

MCNet growing by leaps and bounds

The Military Counselor Network (MCNet) is still growing! As of February, the number of MCNet members is 955. DANTES encourages every educational counselor to join MCNet. It's an electronic E-mail list used as a networking tool to link



military education center counselors worldwide. Using E-mail, counselors post messages to the MCNet. Once posted, the message is delivered to all members. Members usually receive two to four messages daily.

There are many benefits of joining! You will receive news concerning military education, job postings, updates on DANTES programs, educational articles, and postings from other members seeking assistance and providing information. Military education center counselors (civil service or contractors), education services officers, and anyone within DOD who provides educational counseling for Service members are eligible to enroll. The manager of MCNet is Ms. Sheila Nyjordet, DANTES, Code 10K.

To join, simply go to http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_Web/counselorsupport/mcnet/index.htm, and follow the directions.

DOD Worldwide Education Symposium (Services/Colleges/Organizations)

The week of 7-11 July provides a unique opportunity for the Military Services, Coast Guard, organizations, and a few schools to schedule individual meetings before the start of the Symposium on Tuesday morning and at the end of the Symposium. A list of these special meetings is provided this month for you to plan your schedule for the week of the Symposium. Please note that many of the meetings are closed to individuals not associated with that Service or organization, so be sure to check carefully before planning to attend.

Also, be sure to visit the Symposium web site often at <http://www.ww-003.com> to read the updates posted.

You will find the agenda, concurrent Session topics, workshops, roundtable sessions, exhibitors, and other items pertinent in planning your travel to Orlando.

Don't forget to register online if you plan to attend. The cutoff date for early registration is 7 June. Credit cards will not be charged until the week of 16 June.

More next month!

Sunday, 6 July

Montgomery GI Bill*	1-2:30 p.m.
Marine Corps Lifelong Learning*	1-5 p.m.
Reserve Component Educational Panel (RCEP)*	2:30-4 p.m.
Army Reserve *	4-5 p.m.
Navy Recruiting Command Registration ...	5-8 p.m.

Monday, 7 July

Navy Voluntary Education Department*	7:30-12 noon
Coast Guard	7:30-5:30 p.m.
Air Force - AETC*	8-12 noon
Air Force - AFMC*	8-12 noon
Air Force - USAFE*	8-12 noon
Air Force - PACAF*	8-12 noon
Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Librarians* ...	8-4 p.m.
Navy Recruiting Command Cultural Diversity Colloquium	8-5 p.m.
Air Force - AMC*	8-5 p.m.
Air Force - ACC*	8-5 p.m.
Air Force - AFSPACE*	8-5 p.m.
Army National Guard Workshop	8-5 p.m.
Marine Corps Lifelong Learning*	8-5 p.m.
Army Day*	8-5 p.m.
Webster University Directors*	9-4 p.m.
Myers-Briggs Type Indicator/Strong Skills Confidence Inventory Workshop (pre-register)	1-5 p.m.
Navy VolEd Department	
Northeastern US/European Region*	1:30-5 p.m.
Southeastern U.S./U.S. Territories Region*	1:30-5 p.m.
Western/Southwest Region*	1:30-5 p.m.
Far/Middle Eastern Region*	1:30-5 p.m.

Tuesday, 8 July

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Advisory Board	1-5 p.m.
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Reception	6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 9 July

SOCAD Advisory Committee	8-11:30 a.m.
DANTES Education Services Advisory Panel (DESAP)*	11:45-1:15 p.m.
Troops-to-Teachers State Directors	5-6:30 p.m.
SOCOAST Institutional Meeting	7-9 p.m.

Thursday, 10 July

Navy Recruiting Command Cultural Diversity Colloquium	1-5 p.m.
Army Installation Management Agency Regional Directors of Education	4-7 p.m.

Friday, 11 July

Coast Guard	8-12 noon
Army National Guard Workshop	8-12 noon
Army Regional Meetings	
Northeast (NERO)*	8-12 noon
Southeast (SERO)*	8-12 noon
Northwest (NWRO)*	8-12 noon
Southwest (SWRO)*	8-12 noon
Pacific (PARO)*	8-12 noon
Korea (KORO)*	8-12 noon
Europe (EURO)*	8-12 noon
Air Force*	8-5 p.m.
Navy Recruiting Command Cultural Diversity Colloquium	8-5 p.m.

*Indicates closed meetings

In the Spotlight with Mr. Steve Beckman

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

Mr. Beckman has more than 20 years of federal service in both Air Force Professional Military Education and DOD Voluntary Educa-

tion. He's held positions as an instructor and later as Commandant of an Air Force NCO Academy, Chief of Training for an Air Force Tactical Fighter Wing, and the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air University.

Mr. Beckman has been an Examinations Program Operations Specialist at DANTES since June 1998. As he puts it, "I speak five languages; Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and I'm especially fluent in Air Force." Recently, I spoke with Mr. Beckman on the state of Examinations Program Operations.

Q: "What are some of the changes affecting Examinations Program Operations?"

A: "Downsizing and deployments have resulted in smaller staff at the local level. Now it's more important than ever for the TCO and ATCO/Testing communities to maximize available resources. DANTES provides Examinations Program update information on the DANTES Home Page and through the monthly *DANTES Information Bulletin*. This information can be useful for new and ongoing staff training. Another example is the training video entitled, "Test

Security is your Responsibility.' This video is available upon request through the DANTES Examinations Program (required training for authorized DANTES Testing Personnel). A well-managed



Mr. Steve Beckman

training program will help prevent critical errors that impact scoring; for example, ensuring submission of the required registration form for the SAT and ACT testing programs."

Q: "How often do issues of test loss and compromise surface?"

A: "Of the thousands of examinations transactions each year, only five or six will typically result in this type of problem. As a reminder, if this type of issue should occur, help get us involved immediately to lessen the delay and get the system back up and running."

Q: "How large is the Examinations Program Operations?"

A: "We are a small department consisting of Mr. Len Lipp, Ms. Toni Streety, Ms. Kirstin Savage, and myself. We work to be that extended helping hand to help fix any problems that may occur in the field. Due to the excellent testing agencies we contract with, we work to pass-on feedback for process improvement directly to the test centers."

For more information, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at exams@voled.doded.mil.

Do you have a Success Story?
E-mail me at ea@voled.doded.mil.



Visit our
new web site
at
[http://
www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil)

community. Each component is asked to quantify monies spent, Service members served, and degrees conferred; and to identify programs that work or don't. It is important that our resources are maximized and the term "Social Compact" is on the front burner for professionals who provide educational opportunities to the Reserve components.

The impact of mobilization on Reservists enrolled in voluntary education programs is a hot topic. Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) is leading the way to assisting Service members in their interaction with schools regarding mobilization. SOC has issued the following statement:

"SOC has received many calls concerning issues related to the deployment of National Guard members and Reservists. While there is no Federal legislation that addresses the responsibilities of colleges and universities to their mobilized servicemembers/students, several states have passed laws that mandate specific policies for their institutions. The U.S. Department of Education has also issued guidelines that in essence, urge colleges to develop policies that do not impose financial or academic hardships on their deployed students. SOC has posted much of this information on its web site, which has recently been updated to include even more information about individual state legislation. Counselors may find it helpful to refer Guard members and Reservists to the Activation and Mobilization Checklist, also posted on the web site at <http://www.soc.aascu.org/>."

It is not too early to plan for demobilization issues. Policies to reenroll at schools, eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill or Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves, and other issues will need to be addressed.

MSgt Delgado (USAFR) discussed the impact of mobilization on Air Force Reservists. Mobilized Airmen were not eligible for tuition assistance from either the active or Reserve component once mobilized. Many of these Airmen were called-up and remained stateside where they have the opportunity to continue their voluntary education programs. The USAFR decided to allow their mobilized Reservists to continue receiving Reserve tuition assistance. This may change due to the availability of funds, but remains in effect now.

The USAFR is also considering offering tuition assistance to Airmen before they complete initial military training. There is a waiting list for initial training, and many Airmen are waiting longer than a year before getting a school slot. USAFR policy is to allow Airmen the option of voiding their contract and leaving the Service if they haven't received initial training within twelve months. The Army National Guard offers tuition assistance to their soldiers immediately upon signing a contract and reporting for their first drill. This has had a positive impact on Army National Guard retention/recruitment. In true RCEP spirit, the ARNG forwarded their policy on this subject to the USAFR.

Comparison of the Reserve components usage of DANTES programs from FY01 to FY02 indicates guidance testing declined by about 4,000 from the previous fiscal year. All other tests, i.e., CLEP, DSSTs, GREs, etc., were taken at approximately the same rate. Tuition Assistance (TA) enrollments and payments have increased significantly for those components that offer TA.

The USAR, ARNG, and USAFR doubled their enrollments from FY01 to FY02! Troops-to-Teachers has seen a huge surge in Reserve component enrollments during FY02, since the program became available to the Reserve components in January 2002. This trend is forecasted to continue, and we look forward to reporting the FY03 Troops-to-Teachers Reserve component final enrollment numbers.

COL Payne closed out the RCEP meeting by mentioning that he will be moving to a new position in March. He will work in the Office of the Secretary of the Army on Manpower and Reserve Affairs. His replacement has not been named. COL Payne expressed his appreciation to the RCEP members and all the education professionals and leaders who have had a role in offering the best package of education opportunities available to Reserve component Service members in history.

If you have questions or comments about Reserve component voluntary education issues, please contact your component representative (see http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_Web/rc/rcep.htm for contact information); or E-mail me at rca@voled.doded.mil.

DANTES Information

DANTES

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The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing policy committee.

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